

LEBOEUF, LAMB, GREENE & MACRAE L.L.P.

A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

NEW YORK
WASHINGTON, D.C.
ALBANY
BOSTON
DENVER
HARRISBURG
HARTFORD
HOUSTON
JACKSONVILLE
LOS ANGELES
NEWARK
PITTSBURGH
SALT LAKE CITY
SAN FRANCISCO

260 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON, MA 02110-3173

(617) 439-9500

FACSIMILE: (617) 439-0341

FACSIMILE: (617) 439-0342

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL:

LONDON
A LONDON-BASED
MULTINATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

PARIS

BRUSSELS

MOSCOW

RIYADH
AFFILIATED OFFICE

TASHKENT

BISHKEK

ALMATY

BEIJING

October 16, 2000

BY HAND

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: D.T.E. 99-60 - Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company,
Default Service Tariff Filing

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

On October 6, 2000, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company ("FG&E" or the "Company") provided the Department with an update on its solicitation for default service supply and requested an extension for reviewing the bids and awarding a contract. On that same day, the Department also issued its Order addressing the recommendations of the Default Service Working Group and adopting procedures for implementation of default service. The purpose of this letter is to revise the Company's October 6, 2000 request to allow for the implementation of new default service prices on December 1, 2000, based upon current market prices, and to provide for notice to customers more in keeping with the Department's October 6 Order.

In its October 6th letter, FG&E requested an extension for awarding its default service supply contract, and suggested two alternatives for implementation of new default prices. The first alternative was to file for approval of new rates to be effective December 1, 2000, which rates would reflect the new wholesale supply contract. Under this alternative, however, customers would be provided with less advance notification of the new rates than recommended by the working group and adopted by the Department in its October 6, 2000 Order. A second alternative was to delay implementation of the new rates until January 1, 2001, which option would provide for notification to customers consistent with the October 6, 2000 Order.

Letter to Mary Cottrell
October 16, 2000
Page 2

FG&E by this letter is revising its requests to allow the Company to implement new default rates effective December 1, 2000, based upon recent market prices it has paid for default supplies, rather than upon the new default service supply contract. These rates would be in place for December only, and would be replaced by new rates January 1, 2001, which would reflect the new default service supply contract. Under this alternative, FG&E would be able to notify customers of the new rates within, or close to, the timeframes provided for in the October 6, 2000, order.

Accordingly, FG&E is hereby submitting an original and nine (9) copies of its proposed tariff MDTE No. 59, Default Service reflecting the following prices for Default Service: Schedules RD-1, RD-2, and RD-4 at a price of \$0.05206 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), Schedules GD-1, GD-2, GD-4, GD-5, and GD-6 at a price of \$0.05216 per kWh, Schedule GD-3 and EBD at a price of \$0.05059 per kWh, and Schedule SD at a price of \$0.05167 per kWh beginning December 1, 2000. See Attachment A. Also enclosed is a check for \$15 for the Department's fees related to this filing.

FG&E submits this tariff pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 164, sec. 1B(d), 220 C.M.R. sec. 5.00 and sec. 11.00, and the Department of Telecommunications and Energy's ("Department's") Order. See Default Pricing and Procurement, D.T.E. 99-60-C (2000). In that Order, the Department approved the review process recommended by the Default Service Working Group that provides that proposed Default Service rates will be deemed approved within five (5) days if the Department does not initiate an investigation thereon. Id., at pp. 8-9. FG&E requests that the Department approve the enclosed tariff as soon as possible, for effect on December 1, 2000, subject to future reconciliation of costs by the Department.

Until its Order in D.T.E. 99-60-B, the Department required that the price used by distribution companies to provide standard offer service in their service territories stand as a proxy for the market price of power. The Department used the standard offer price to determine the price of default service power. Therefore, even though FG&E has been procuring default service power from the wholesale competitive market since its divestiture, it has been charging its default service customers the price it pays for standard offer power to Constellation Power Source, Inc., its wholesale standard offer service provider. On October 6, 2000, the Department accepted the recommendations of the Default Service Working Group, and required customer notification of the imminent initiation of market based default service prices.

Letter to Mary Cottrell
October 16, 2000
Page 3

Fitchburg has calculated the proposed wholesale Default Service proxy price for the month of December utilizing the actual hourly ISO-NE Energy Clearing Price ("ECP") and Energy Ancillary Service prices for September 13, 2000 through October 12, 2000. This is the most recent 30 day period for which this actual ISO-NE data was available. Fitchburg also included in its calculation energy uplift charges, actually billed by ISO-NE to FG&E during the last billing period for its Default Service load. These energy uplift charges represent costs incurred by ISO-NE to efficiently operate generation in New England, but which costs are not eligible to be included in the clearing prices for Energy or Ancillary Services. Finally, Fitchburg has also included in its proposed wholesale Default Service proxy price the Installed Capacity cost associated with its Default Service load using the ISO-NE current rate on file and pending approval by the FERC. Based on this information and calculation, the proposed wholesale Default Service proxy price for the month of December is \$0.04842 per kWh. The retail rates above are determined by applying distribution losses for each rate class as approved and on file with the Department in the Company's Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers, M.D.T.E. No. 23, sheet 14. The typical bill impact of these proposed changes on a residential customer using 500 kWh would be an increase of 12.2%.

This Default Service rate will be in effect for the month of December. In accordance with the Department's Order in D.T.E. 99-60-C, on or before November 3, 2000, FG&E will file new tariffs designed to replace these rates with new rates to be negotiated as a result of FG&E's competitive bid for wholesale provision of default service. The new rates will be in effect for six month intervals following the initial five month period resulting from the use of a proxy rate for December, to wit, January through May, and then June through November. In accordance with its request for proposals, FG&E intends to contract for the new default service supply as of December 1, 2000, and will then reconcile the market estimate reflected in the December prices with the actual prices paid under the new supply contract.

Pursuant to the Department's October 6, 2000 Order, FG&E has taken and will take the following customer notification steps:

1. FG&E has included a bill insert, distributed in the month of September, that provides general information on "Electricity Energy Changes, a Restructuring Update"
2. FG&E will provide, upon approval by the Department of its Default Service rate for December, electronic notification of the new Default Service price by website and toll-free telephone numbers. If the proposed rates are approved on

Letter to Mary Cottrell
 October 16, 2000
 Page 4

October 17, 2000 the Company should be able to meet the 45 day notice provision to customers. If approval is received at a later date, the Company hereby requests a waiver of the 45 day notice provision for electronic notification. The Company will make prices available to customers as soon as approval is granted.

3. FG&E's direct mail, as enclosed as Attachment B, will inform customers currently on Default Service that a new interim rate will take effect on December 1, to be followed by a competitively procured price on January 1, 2001. It will also provide information on specific changes taking place for Default Service and actual prices for December. This notice will provide additional company-specific information including a toll-free telephone number that can be used to access Default Service information.

In its October 6, 2000 request the Company proposed to award its contract by October 16, 2000, to file these results October 18, 2000, and to file retail price changes by October 23, 2000. These dates were set using a strict a schedule as possible, given the timing of FERC's expected decision on or about October 12 regarding pricing for installed capacity, and the notice requirements of the working group. As it turns out, the FERC did not meet as we anticipated. Given that the Company has proposed a "proxy price" for effect December 1, we are no longer under such tight scheduling requirements to award the contract. Additionally, because the FERC may now meet on October 25, and FG&E needs time to provide update default load history to bidders (and review time for bidders), FG&E proposes the following revised schedule for the awarding of the contract and filings of the rates to be effective January 1, 2001.

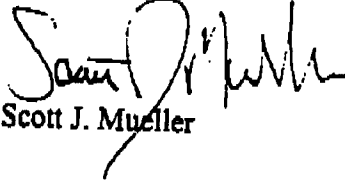
ITEM	DATE
Contract Award Date	November 2, 2000
File Results with MDTE	November 1, 2000
File Retail Price Changes with MDTE	November 3, 2000
Commence Supply	December 1, 2000
Terminate Supply	May 31, 2000

As is customary, FG&E will work with the Department's Consumer Division to finalize all customer notices. FG&E concurs with the Department's recent determination that Stat. 1997, ch. 164, the 1997 Massachusetts Electric Industry Restructuring Act, and FG&E's approved restructuring plan (Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Co., D.P.U./D.T.E. 97-115 (1999)) require the Default Service price to reflect a market price for power. FG&E respectfully requests that the Department permit the proposed rate to take effect for December 1, 2000.

Letter to Mary Cottrell
October 16, 2000
Page 5

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


Scott J. Mueller

cc: Paul Afonso, D.T.E. General Counsel
Jeannie Voveris, D.T.E. Hearing Officer
Ronald LeComte, Director, D.T.E. Electric Power Division
Kevin Brannelly, Director, D.T.E. Rates and Revenue Requirements
Sean Hanley, D.T.E.
Barry Perlmutter, D.T.E.
George Dean, Assistant Attorney General
David O'Connor, Commissioner, DOER
Default Service Working Group

(b65050)

Attachment A
Default Service Tariff
M.D.T.E. No. 59

Redline version

Final version

FITCHBURG GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY
DEFAULT SERVICE
SCHEDULE DS

1. General

This Tariff may be revised, amended, supplemented or supplanted in whole or in part from time to time according to the procedures provided in MDTE regulations and Massachusetts law. In case of conflict between this Tariff and any orders or regulations of the MDTE, said orders or regulations shall govern.

2. Definitions

- A. "Company" shall mean Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company.
- B. "Competitive Supplier" shall mean any entity licensed by the MDTE to sell electricity to retail Customers in Massachusetts, with the following exceptions: (1) a Distribution Company providing Standard Offer Service and Default Service to its distribution Customers, and (2) a municipal light department that is acting as a Distribution Company.
- C. "Customer" shall mean any person, partnership, corporation, or any other entity, whether public or private, who obtains Distribution Service at a Customer Delivery Point and who is a Customer of record of the Company.
- D. "Customer Delivery Point" shall mean the Company's meter or a point designated by the Company located on the Customer's premises.
- E. "Default Service" shall mean the service provided by the Distribution Company to a Customer who is not receiving either Generation Service from a Competitive Supplier or Standard Offer Service, in accordance with the provisions set forth in this tariff.
- F. "Distribution Company" shall mean an electric company organized under the laws of Massachusetts that provides Distribution Service in Massachusetts.
- G. "Distribution Service" shall mean the delivery of electricity to Customers by the Distribution Company.
- H. "Generation Service" shall mean the sale of electricity, including ancillary services such as the provision of reserves, to a Customer by a Competitive Supplier.
- I. "MDTE" shall mean the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy.
- J. "Retail Access Date" shall mean March 1, 1998, unless otherwise determined by the MDTE.

Issued: ~~February 3, 1999~~ October 16, 2000

Effective: ~~February 1, 1999~~ December 1, 2000

FITCHBURG GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY
DEFAULT SERVICE
SCHEDULE DS (Continued)

K. "Standard Offer Service" shall mean the service provided by the Company for a term of seven years after the Retail Access Date, unless otherwise determined by the MDTE. The rates for this service shall be set at levels that achieve the overall Customer rate reductions required by St. 1997, c. 164, § 193 (G.L. c. 164, § 1B). Availability for this service shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Company's Standard Offer Service tariff, on file with the MDTE.

3. Availability

Default Service shall be available to any Customer who is not receiving Standard Offer Service and who, for any reason, has stopped receiving Generation Service from a Competitive Supplier.

4. Rates

The interim rates for Default Service shall be as follows:

For Schedules RD-1, RD-2, RD-4:	\$0.05206 per kWh
For Schedules GD-1, GD-2, GD-4, GD-5, GD-6:	\$0.05216 per kWh
For Schedules GD-3 and EBD:	\$0.05059 per kWh
For Schedule SD:	\$0.05167 per kWh

~~3.5 cents/kWh. These~~ interim rates will be effective during the period February 1, 1999 from December 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 to the effective date of the contract which results from the Company's initial Default Service process solicitation.

The New rate(s) for Default Service shall then be established through a competitive bidding process, but in no case shall exceed the average monthly market price for electricity, as determined by the MDTE.

5. Billing

Each Customer receiving Default Service shall receive one bill from the Company, reflecting unbundled charges for their electric service.

6. Initiation of Default Service

Default service may be initiated in any of the following manners:

- A. A Customer who is receiving Generation Service from a Competitive Supplier notifies the Company that he wishes to terminate such service and receive Default Service. In this instance, Default Service shall be initiated within two (2) business days of such notification for residential Customers. For other Customers, Default Service shall be initiated concurrent with the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, provided that the

Issued: ~~February 3, 1999~~ October 16, 2000

Effective: ~~February 1, 1999~~ December 1, 2000

M.D.T.E. No. ~~3450~~
Canceling M.D.T.E. No. ~~4839~~
Sheet 3

FITCHBURG GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY
DEFAULT SERVICE
SCHEDULE DS (Continued)

Customer has provided such notification to the Company two (2) or more business days before the next scheduled meter read date, in accordance with the Company's Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers. If the Customer provided such notification fewer than two (2) days before the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, Default Service shall be initiated concurrent with the Customer's subsequent scheduled meter read date;

- B. A Competitive Supplier notifies the Company that it shall terminate Generation Service to a Customer. In this instance, Default Service shall be initiated for the Customer concurrent with the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, provided that the notice of termination of Generation Service is received by the Company two (2) or more business days before the next scheduled meter read date, in accordance with the Company's Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers. If the notice of termination is received fewer than two (2) days before the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, Default Service shall be initiated concurrent with the Customer's subsequent scheduled meter read date;
- C. A Competitive Supplier ceases to provide Generation Service to a Customer, without notification to the Company. In this instance, Default Service to the Customer shall be initiated immediately upon the cessation of Generation Service;
- D. A Customer taking Standard Offer Service has not chosen affirmatively a Competitive Supplier at the end of the term of Standard Offer Service.

7. Termination of Default Service

Default Service may be terminated by a Customer concurrent with the Customer's next scheduled meter read date provided that notice of initiation of Generation Service by a Competitive Supplier is received by the Company two (2) or more business days before the next scheduled meter read date, in accordance with the Company's Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers.

If the notice of initiation of Generation Service by the Competitive Supplier is received by the Company fewer than two days before the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, Default Service shall be terminated concurrent with the Customer's subsequent scheduled meter read date.

There shall be no fee for terminating Default Service.

8. Reconciliation of Default Service Costs

At the end of each calendar year, the Company shall reconcile recoveries with the cost of Default Service pursuant to the Company's Default Service Adjustment - Schedule DSA, MDTE No. 40.

Issued: ~~February 3, 1999~~ October 16, 2000

Effective: ~~February 1, 1999~~ December 1, 2000

M.D.T.E. No. 59
Canceling M.D.T.E. No. 39
Sheet 1

**FITCHBURG GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY
DEFAULT SERVICE
SCHEDULE DS**

1. General

This Tariff may be revised, amended, supplemented or supplanted in whole or in part from time to time according to the procedures provided in MDTE regulations and Massachusetts law. In case of conflict between this Tariff and any orders or regulations of the MDTE, said orders or regulations shall govern.

2. Definitions

- A. "Company" shall mean Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company.
- B. "Competitive Supplier" shall mean any entity licensed by the MDTE to sell electricity to retail Customers in Massachusetts, with the following exceptions: (1) a Distribution Company providing Standard Offer Service and Default Service to its distribution Customers, and (2) a municipal light department that is acting as a Distribution Company.
- C. "Customer" shall mean any person, partnership, corporation, or any other entity, whether public or private, who obtains Distribution Service at a Customer Delivery Point and who is a Customer of record of the Company.
- D. "Customer Delivery Point" shall mean the Company's meter or a point designated by the Company located on the Customer's premises.
- E. "Default Service" shall mean the service provided by the Distribution Company to a Customer who is not receiving either Generation Service from a Competitive Supplier or Standard Offer Service, in accordance with the provisions set forth in this tariff.
- F. "Distribution Company" shall mean an electric company organized under the laws of Massachusetts that provides Distribution Service in Massachusetts.
- G. "Distribution Service" shall mean the delivery of electricity to Customers by the Distribution Company.
- H. "Generation Service" shall mean the sale of electricity, including ancillary services such as the provision of reserves, to a Customer by a Competitive Supplier.
- I. "MDTE" shall mean the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy.
- J. "Retail Access Date" shall mean March 1, 1998, unless otherwise determined by the MDTE.

Issued: October 16, 2000

Effective: December 1, 2000

M.D.T.E. No. 59
Canceling M.D.T.E. No. 39
Sheet 2

FITCHBURG GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY
DEFAULT SERVICE
SCHEDULE DS (Continued)

K. "Standard Offer Service" shall mean the service provided by the Company for a term of seven years after the Retail Access Date, unless otherwise determined by the MDTE. The rates for this service shall be set at levels that achieve the overall Customer rate reductions required by St. 1997, c. 164, § 193 (G.L. c. 164, § 1B). Availability for this service shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Company's Standard Offer Service tariff, on file with the MDTE.

3. Availability

Default Service shall be available to any Customer who is not receiving Standard Offer Service and who, for any reason, has stopped receiving Generation Service from a Competitive Supplier.

4. Rates

The interim rates for Default Service shall be as follows:

For Schedules RD-1, RD-2, RD-4:	\$0.05206 per kWh
For Schedules GD-1, GD-2, GD-4, GD-5, GD-6:	\$0.05216 per kWh
For Schedules GD-3 and EBD:	\$0.05059 per kWh
For Schedule SD:	\$0.05167 per kWh

These interim rates will be effective from December 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000. New rate(s) for Default Service shall then be established through a competitive bidding process, but in no case shall exceed the average monthly market price for electricity, as determined by the MDTE.

5. Billing

Each Customer receiving Default Service shall receive one bill from the Company, reflecting unbundled charges for their electric service.

6. Initiation of Default Service

Default service may be initiated in any of the following manners:

- A. A Customer who is receiving Generation Service from a Competitive Supplier notifies the Company that he wishes to terminate such service and receive Default Service. In this instance, Default Service shall be initiated within two (2) business days of such notification for residential Customers. For other Customers, Default Service shall be initiated concurrent with the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, provided that the Customer has provided such notification to the Company two (2) or more business days before the next scheduled meter read date, in accordance with the Company's Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers. If the Customer provided such notification fewer

Issued: October 16, 2000

Effective: December 1, 2000

M.D.T.E. No. 59
Canceling M.D.T.E. No. 39
Sheet 3

FITCHBURG GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY
DEFAULT SERVICE
SCHEDULE DS (Continued)

than two (2) days before the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, Default Service shall be initiated concurrent with the Customer's subsequent scheduled meter read date;

- B. A Competitive Supplier notifies the Company that it shall terminate Generation Service to a Customer. In this instance, Default Service shall be initiated for the Customer concurrent with the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, provided that the notice of termination of Generation Service is received by the Company two (2) or more business days before the next scheduled meter read date, in accordance with the Company's Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers. If the notice of termination is received fewer than two (2) days before the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, Default Service shall be initiated concurrent with the Customer's subsequent scheduled meter read date;
- C. A Competitive Supplier ceases to provide Generation Service to a Customer, without notification to the Company. In this instance, Default Service to the Customer shall be initiated immediately upon the cessation of Generation Service;
- D. A Customer taking Standard Offer Service has not chosen affirmatively a Competitive Supplier at the end of the term of Standard Offer Service.

7. **Termination of Default Service**

Default Service may be terminated by a Customer concurrent with the Customer's next scheduled meter read date provided that notice of initiation of Generation Service by a Competitive Supplier is received by the Company two (2) or more business days before the next scheduled meter read date, in accordance with the Company's Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers.

If the notice of initiation of Generation Service by the Competitive Supplier is received by the Company fewer than two days before the Customer's next scheduled meter read date, Default Service shall be terminated concurrent with the Customer's subsequent scheduled meter read date.

There shall be no fee for terminating Default Service.

8. **Reconciliation of Default Service Costs**

At the end of each calendar year, the Company shall reconcile recoveries with the cost of Default Service pursuant to the Company's Default Service Adjustment - Schedule DSA, MDTE No. 40.

Issued: October 16, 2000

Effective: December 1, 2000

DRAFT

Important Information for Customers Receiving Default Service

A RESTRUCTURING UPDATE FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

Please keep this important notice for future reference.

As you will see under the Supplier Services section of your electric bill, you currently receive Default Service.

You receive Default Service generally because:

- You opened your account with your current electric company after March 1, 1998, or
- You have been served by a Competitive Power Supplier in the past but now take supply service from your electric distribution company

The availability of Default Service ensures that no one will ever be without a supplier of electricity. To provide Default service, your electric distribution company must solicit bids from competitive electricity suppliers and then enter into a contract to purchase electricity from one or more of these suppliers. The price paid by your electric distribution company for electricity reflects current market pricing.

Over time, market prices change depending upon a number of factors including the amount of supply and demand for electricity. These prices fluctuate similar to the ways home heating oil, gasoline and some grocery prices fluctuate. Until now, the rate charged to customers for Default Service has remained stable. Now, the price for Default service will more closely indicate the cost of providing the service to you. Default Service will begin to fluctuate on a monthly basis to reflect changes in market prices. As a Default Service customer, you will have two pricing options available.

New Default Service Pricing Options

Default Service prices are updated every six months for the December 1-May 31 cycle and the June 1-November 30 cycle.

FG&E is currently soliciting bids from suppliers and should have approved prices to take effect January 1. Since the billing cycle begins a month before in December, FG&E will charge interim pricing for the month of December only, followed by pricing effective from January 1-May 31. Subsequently, default prices will change only in six month intervals.

Effective January 1, 2001, two new Default Service pricing options will soon be available – a fixed six month rate and a monthly variable rate.

Fixed Six Month Rate

- Initially, all residential and small commercial/industrial customers automatically will be placed on this rate. If you are assigned to this fixed rate, you are allowed to choose the monthly variable rate, however you can only make this choice once.
- The fixed rate will remain the same for six months at a time and will be based on the average price over the six-month period.
- Your electric distribution company will set the dates and rates for each six-month interval based on its contract with the default service provider.

- If you are on the fixed rate for Default Service and decide to switch to a Competitive Power Supplier before the period is over, your electric bill will be *recalculated*. This means that your electric bill for the period you were on the fixed rate will be recalculated as if you were on the monthly variable rate for that period. This ensures that all consumers pay the actual costs of the electricity they have used. This adjustment may be a credit or a debit, and will be reflected on your first bill after the switch is effective. Your electric distribution company will further explain this recalculation to you.
- Customers who are on the six-month fixed rate for default service and decide to switch to a competitive supplier before the six-month period is over will see a recalculated electric bill. This means that the electric bill for the period of the fixed-six month rate will be recalculated to the monthly variable rate for that period. This ensures that all consumers pay the actual cost of electricity they have used. This adjustment may be a credit or a debit, and will be reflected on the first bill after the switch is effective.
- For December 1-31, 2000, the fixed rate per kWh has been set as indicated below:

Fixed Rate for Default Service Pricing (cents per kWh)

<u>Customer Group</u>	<u>Rate Classes</u>	<u>Price</u>
Residential	RD-1, RD-2, RD-4	\$0.05206 per kWh
Regular General	GD-1, GD-2, GD-4, GD-5, GD-6	\$0.05216 per kWh
Large General	GD-3, EBD	\$0.05059 per kWh
Outdoor Lighting	SD	\$0.05167 per kWh

Monthly Variable Rate

- Effective January 1, 2001, large Commercial and Industrial customers automatically will be placed on a monthly variable rate.
- The variable rate will change from month to month to reflect the actual cost of electricity purchased each month.
- If you are assigned to the monthly variable rate, you are allowed to choose the fixed rate option, however, you can only make this choice once.

Fixed and variable prices will be available from your electric distribution company 45 days prior to the date the prices become effective. Call Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company at 1-888-301-7700 or visit their web site at www.unifi.com for pricing information..

Competitive Supplier Option

You may wish to shop the competitive market. We encourage you to compare the Competitive Suppliers' options with Default options from your electric distribution company. In addition to price, other service offerings may be of value to you. The length and terms of your contract with your supplier, as well as billing, payment, deposit, warranty and other information are important to review. To obtain a list of Licensed Competitive Power Suppliers, including a free Consumer Guide, call the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Electric Restructuring Hotline at 1-888-758-4469 or visit www.state.ma.us/thepower.

Keep in mind that the market for competitive electric supply is new and not all licensed suppliers are available to serve all customers. Although the opportunities may be different for different types of customers, be mindful that different competitive supply opportunities may become available at various times. Therefore, check periodically at the phone number or web site above to stay current on competitive suppliers in Massachusetts.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to change my Default Service pricing option?

You can exercise this option, but only once.

What if I move and have a new electric distribution company?

All new residential and small commercial and industrial customers will be placed on the fixed rate pricing option. All new medium and large commercial and industrial customers will be placed on the monthly variable rate pricing option. Any customer may switch their option; however you can only make this choice once.

How is my bill affected if I leave Default Service to enroll with a Competitive Power Supplier?

If you choose a Competitive Power Supplier, the supplier's rates will go into effect on your next scheduled meter reading date provided your electric distribution company had notice of this change at least 2 business days prior to your next scheduled meter reading date. Your next scheduled meter reading date appears on your electric bill.

If you are on the six-month fixed rate for default service and decide to switch to a competitive supplier before the six month period is over, your electric bill will be recalculated. This means that your electric bill for the period you were on the fixed-six month rate will be recalculated as if you were on the monthly variable rate for that period. This ensures that all consumers pay the actual cost of the electricity they have used. This adjustment may be a credit or a debit, and will be reflected on your first bill after the switch is effective. Your electric distribution company can further explain this recalculation to you.

What if I am a low-income discount rate customer?

Low-income discount rate customers are always eligible for Standard Offer Service from their electric distribution company or may choose a Competitive Supplier. The Default Service rate changes do not affect low-income discount rate customers.

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions about your electric service, FG&E customers may call 1-888-301-7700.

For more information describing the changes to the electric industry and a list of Licensed competitive Power Suppliers, including a free Consumer Guide, please call the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Electric Restructuring Hotline at 1-888-758-4469 or visit www.state.ma.us/thepower. You may also contact the Department of Telecommunications and Energy if you have a grievance.